

AMHERST YOUTH BOARD

Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2022

1. Attendance/Introduction of Members and Guests

Vice Chairperson: Krista Krause

Members Present: Susan McClary, Hannah Joseph, Gia Panesar, Tiger Li

Excused: Mark Forden, Ann Nichols, Jodi Benson, Priya Chaudhuri, Dawn Cwierley,
Rose Mary Buscaglia

Absent: Danielle Alba, Nora Robshaw, Siddarth Suresh

Staff Present: Mary-Diana Pouli, Kathy Mobarak-Miller

2. Public Comment/Presentations

Heidi Nicklaus Lefebvre, Project Coordinator for the Northwest Amherst Community Center
She started the job in late November.

- The Northwest Amherst Community Center is located in an office park at 220 Northpointe Parkway, near Sweet Home and N. French Roads. The location is comprised of 29,000 square feet.
- This Center is a collaboration between the Town of Amherst Youth & Recreation Department, the Sweet Home Central School District and the Amherst Senior Center. Construction is expected to begin in January of 2023. In the Center will be senior citizen programming, the Youth & Recreation Department summer day camp and afterschool programs, a fitness area and a gym.
- Some of the families in this area of the town have economic and transportation challenges thus having the Center close by with programming for all ages is a priority.
- The goal is to open in September 2023. However, some “Family Fun Friday Nights” are being planned for March 2023.

3. Approval of November 9, 2022 Meeting Minutes Tabled. Quorum not met.

4. Committee Reports:

➤ Finance

Krista and Gia have affirmed that they will serve on the committee. Tiger is thinking about it.

➤ Amherst Youth Consortium

Hannah explained the Take It to the Box campaign that promotes Safe Use, Safe Storage and Safe Disposal of medicines. Susan offered to check with the Williamsville CSD PTA Council in regards to a future presentation at one of its meetings in 2023.

➤ Family Room No Report.

➤ Amherst Youth & Community Coalition

(Formerly known as the Amherst Task Force for Healthy Community*Healthy Youth.)

Susan McClary reported that the December and January columns in the Amherst Bee will focus on a “Look Back at Year 2022.”

5. Liaison Reports

➤ Councilmember Shawn Lavin – excused

➤ Amherst Youth Foundation

Mary-Diana reported that there will be a Middle School Night in January 2023. Both Tiger and Gia had attended a Middle School Night event when younger.

6. Chairperson's Report No report

7. Executive Director's Report – Mary-Diana Pouli

➤ **Program Updates**

- **Breakfast with Santa** at the Amherst Senior Center had 150 attendees. Breakfast food of pancakes, scrambled eggs, etc. was served. The cost was \$5 per person.
- **The rescheduled Turkey Trail/Trot** was stopped when it was learned that trees had fallen on the trail.
- The **Holiday Market** on Sunday, December 11th had over 30 vendors and over 300 attendees
- **Drop & Shop** sessions at the Williamsville Youth & Family Center sold out with 30 participants each evening. There were activities in the gym, crafts, popcorn and a video.
- **Holiday Happenings** on Friday, December 9th had over 400 attendees. There was musical entertainment, cookie decorating, crafts and a tree lighting with caroling.
- **The Amherst Central School District** received a grant from SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) which will involve training and programming and the department will be participating.
- **A new park** is being planned near the North Amherst Fire Station, Tonawanda Creek Road & Campbell Blvd. Included in the plans are a playground for children ages 2-5, play elements for older children, a basketball court, softball diamond and a pavilion. The project is being funded by the NYS Canal Corporation to increase access to the water.

➤ **October Revenue Report**

- The report was distributed and reviewed. Revenue exceeded projections for the year. Much may be attributed to non-residents paying to use the Clearfield and North Forest pools over the summer.

8. Old Business

The food truck purchase will not happen at this time. The grant proposal was denied. The department is exploring other options for funding.

9. New Business None

10. Announcements/Adjournment

Next meeting is Wednesday, January 11, in person, at the Williamsville Youth & Family Center. 5005 Sheridan Drive, 14221.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kathy Mobarak-Miller.